

10 Southwell Gardens  
London SW  
Christmas Day /84

My dear Gray

This bears our affectionate best wishes for you & Mrs Gray and at the same time my best thanks for your letter and for the valuable gifts of your various papers not hitherto (except one or two small ones) in my possession - It has more than once occurred to me that it wd be a great service to botanists if some young American wd put together a little Nomenclator Grayianus i.e. an alphabetical list of the species described or mentioned in your works & memoirs with references.

You may say that the N. American species will all ultimately come out in the Syn. Flora, but it will be some time before that is complete &

meantime it costs no small labour  
to hunt out all that one wants  
to learn from you - Besides there  
are many Pacific & S. American  
Species besides those in the Bot. of  
the U. S. Expl. Exp.

Any careful young man could do  
the work without giving you the  
least trouble and would deserve to  
have his name immortalized by  
your naming a species or even a genus  
after him - ample reward for his pains.

My wife has not been photographed  
for a long time but I have found  
one about 15 years old done in  
costume for a fancy ball - please -  
give it to Mrs Gray if she does  
not consider it too fantastic for her  
collection of serious people -

Of course you have heard of  
the expected addition to the  
Hooker dynasty - Our friend

announced it to me with a  
somewhat apologetic air.

Harriet is I think decidedly improving  
& may I hope get quite well in health  
but Dyer is overworked & not strong.

We have had stormy & wet  
weather but now dry & moderately  
cold - not quite frosty -

Just received a letter from ~~Harriet~~  
Miss North from Chili with a very  
pleasant account of her doings

We are all well here & hope  
to get a satisfactory account of you  
& Mrs Gray

Ever truly yours

Wm Ball

I shall have parcels of plants for  
Mrs Canby - Mr Greene in California & a small  
one for you - Would it do to send a box  
to you & would you receive the right share  
of expenses from each - Or can I prepay the  
whole or shall I send them separately  
I suppose if sent to Cambridge they would have  
the risk of being ill used at the custom house -